
WATER RULE NO. 19

WATER DIVERSION

A. GENERAL

Water diversion is presumed to be caused by the Customer receiving the benefit of service from the diversion.

B. UTILITY'S RIGHT TO DISCONTINUE SERVICE

Whenever the Utility has determined that water diversion is occurring or a hazardous condition exists at a given location, the Utility shall investigate and may disconnect the service immediately.

C. RESTORATION OF SERVICE

In order to restore service discontinued under the provisions of Section B above, the Customer shall be required to pay in advance, all of the following:

1. The higher of the minimum fee plus material or time plus material.
2. Charges for estimated usage during the period in which the water diversion occurred, based on provisions of Water Rule No. 5.
3. Charges for discontinuance and restoration of service as covered in Water Rule No. 7, payment of deposits and entire current bill.

The customer may also be required to make corrections to the service and obtain a permit for inspection and clearance and/or provide access for inspection of meter and meter facilities to determine if the diversion has been removed.

D. APPEAL BY CUSTOMER

Any portion of the charges set forth in this rule that is disputed by the Customer may be appealed pursuant to the provisions of Water Rule No. 17.

E. THEFT OF SERVICE

The Customer benefiting from diversion shall be assessed a fee to make the Utility whole for labor and materials involved in investigating and making any required corrections.

F. CRIMINAL PENALTIES

Theft of utility services is punishable under California Penal Code Sections 487, 496, 498, 591, 592, 593 and may result in liability under California Civil Code Sections 1882 through 1882.6.